

FOCUS AREA: HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Goal 1: Sound scientific information to support ecosystem-based approaches to managing the coastal environment.

Strategies

- Conduct research on ecosystem processes and the relationships between coastal stressors and long-term human and ecosystem health, and communicate this information to public and private planners, decision-makers and managers.
- Contribute to the development of baseline data, standards, and indicators to support ecosystem-based approaches to land use, water, fisheries, and other resource management.
- Develop methodologies that can be used to evaluate ecosystem-based management approaches to assess their effectiveness once they are in place.

Goal 2: Widespread use of ecosystem-based approaches to managing land, water and living resources in coastal areas.

Strategies

- Work with partners within and outside of NOAA to develop data, models, and training activities that support ecosystem-based planning and management approaches, and share these with a wide variety of constituencies.
- Support the development of regional coastal observation systems and other collaborative efforts that advance our capability to predict the effects of human activities and environmental changes on coastal resources in order to take steps to mitigate their effects.
- Provide life-long learning programs for people of all ages that enhance understanding of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments and promote stewardship of healthy ecosystems.

Goal 3: Restored function and productivity of degraded ecosystems.

Strategies

- Support research to improve the effectiveness of ecosystem restoration and identify promising new restoration approaches and technologies.
- Invest in the development and dissemination of new information, policies, technologies and methods to address water quality degradation, prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic non-native species, and minimize the negative impacts of these.
- Provide technical support for citizens and businesses that need help with specific mitigation/restoration problems, giving them access to the latest information and techniques.